

Conservation Commission

George B Gettinger - Chairman Briscoe Lang – Vice Chairman

Julie Guerin - Secretary John Monaghan

Michael Scalzi Greg Meyers

Dick morrissey

Minutes of meeting, September 9, 2010

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on Sept., 9, at the Arnold Mills Community House, Abbott Run Valley Road, Cumberland, at 6:30 p.m., with George Gettinger, Chair presiding. In attendance were Briscoe Lang, vice-chair, Julie Guerin, secretary, John Monaghan, Mike Scalzi, Greg Myers, and Lucille Martin.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Lang reported that the Commission's budget for the current fiscal year is \$2,500. Mrs. Guerin noted that she has not been reimbursed for an expense submitted in June. She

will follow up with the Finance Department.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trails: Dr. Gettinger reported that the Dept. of Environmental Management owns sophisticated GPS technology for trail mapping. There is a handwritten map of trails at the Monastery available at the Cumberland Library. The Town of Smithfield website also displays trail information for that town.

Open Space Commission: Mr. Monaghan reported on recent activity with the Open Space Commission. The Commission will remain intact, but unfunded through 2011.

NEW BUSINESS:

Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor: Dr. Gettinger distributed copies of the Management Option Proposals that the National Park Service is considering regarding future federal funding for the Corridor. A vote will be held in October to decide which option the Commission will support. At that time the Commission will communicate the recommendation to RI Senators.

Earth Day, 2011: Mr. Myers suggested that we begin thinking about an Earth Day project for 2011. An idea surfaced for the Commission

to sponsor a town wide photo contest. Mr. Monaghan will contact the Valley Breeze. Subjects must be natural locations in Cumberland and photos must have been taken within the past year. Mrs. Guerin will draw up criteria for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces: Mr. Scalzi has not received responses to several requests for updates from the Town Clerk and Planning Director on the status of the outdoor burning ordinance. This important topic has been pending for close to three years.

Monastery Field Mowing: Mr. Lang will follow up with Mr. Marsalkowski to see if the town has contacted him regarding the annual fall mowing of the fields.

Removal of Invasive Plants at the Monastery: Mr. Lang will research aerial photos that will assist in plotting where invasive plants are growing. A field trip to the Monastery is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 26 at 9:00am.

Franklin Farm: Mrs. Martin thanked everyone again for the ceremony at the Farm in July honoring her 30 years of service on the CCC with

the planting of a tree in her name.

COMMUNICATIONS:

High Rock Farm Project: Mr. Monaghan presented a request from the Ms Karen Saucier, President of the Cumberland Land Trust, for support on several projects related to the High Rock Farm property, including RI Natural History Survey work and funding, ATV traffic, and old farm buildings. Mr. Lang will request more specific information on the topics and invite Ms Saucier to the next meeting.

RIACC website: Mr. Monaghan reported that the website is being redesigned and is almost complete.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Guerin

Secretary